

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The current claims follow. For claims not marked as amended in this response, any difference in the claims below and the previous state of the claims is unintentional and in the nature of a typographical error.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for lifecycle maturity assessment, comprising:  
defining process stages of a business process;  
dividing the process stages into key process areas;  
rating the business process according to the key process areas to produce key process area ratings, each of the ratings corresponding to one of the group consisting of initial level, repeatable level, defined level, managed level, and optimized level;  
compiling the key process area ratings;  
performing a business evaluation in accordance with the key process area ratings; and  
creating a recommendation report corresponding ~~to~~ to the business evaluation.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each process stage is associated with specific key process areas.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the business process is rated on a five-level maturity scale.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the business process is rated according to a predefined digital maturity model.